casualties and loss to properties due to Railway accidents during the last two months;

(b) whether any enquiry has been made about those accidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken to prevent such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) As per provisional information, 26 persons lost their lives and 83 sustained injuries in train accidents during July and August 1991. The cost of damage to railway property has been estimated at Rs. 3.57 crores.

The accidents were mainly due to human failure, equipment failure and sabotage. Some of the important steps taken to reduce the accidents are induction of technical devices to aid the human element, intensive and frequent inspections of sensitive installations, monitoring the perforomance of the staff of critical safety categories such as drivers, guards, station masters, etc., intensive training including psyhological checks of staff in operational categories, surprise checks against carriage of inflammable|explosive material in passenger trains, provision of whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs at the approaches of unmanned level crossings and improving visibility for road users and train drivers.

Out of Turn allotment of Government Accommodation

756. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be plesaed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cancelled the allotment of Government accommodation on priority basis sanctioned by the former Minister of Urban Development on the recommendation of the then Ministers;

(b) if so, the number of cases in which the allotments has been canceled and where sanction has already been communicated to the individuals; and

(c) what are the reasons for cancelling the communicated sanctions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) 135 sanctions pending or ad-hoc alloments of Government accommodation ordered by the then Urban Development Minister after 2nd April, 1991, the date on which the Code of Conduct for political parties came into force, have been cancelled. Some of these sanctions were ordered by the former Urban Development Minister in cases recommended by the then Ministers.

Welfare of Beedi Workers in U.P.

757. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved any system for redressal of grievances of beedi workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of the indifferent attitude of Labour Commissioned|Inspectors towards the problems of beedi workers in Allahabad region; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure effective tackling of beedi worker's problems?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) (a) and (b) Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 provide for the regulation of the working and service conditions of beedi workers and any grievances in respect of non-implementation/contravention of the provisions of the Act are taken congnizance by the State Governments, who are responsible for implementation of the Act. In the case of complaints received by the

Central Government the same are taken up with the concerned State Governments for appropriate action.

(c) and (d) The Labour Commissioner's Organisation falls within the purview of the State Government. Central Government has not received any specific complaint in this regard.

Failure of Technology Mission on Oilseeds

758. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether due to failure of Technology Mission and other R&D Projects on oilseeds Government may have to import edible oils and if so, whether Government would fix responsibility in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): There has been sustained growth in area, production and yield in oilseeds during the Seventh Plan period. During the period 1985-86 to 1990-91, the production of oilseeds rose from 10.83 million tonnes to 19.10 million tonnes i.e. a percentage increase of 75 percent not matched by any other crop. Against the target of 18 million tonnes fixed for 1990-91, the production reached an all time record of 19.10 million tones. The strategies accepted and the programmes undertaken by the Technology Mission have been important contributory factors for this impressive increase in production. Imports of edible oils have shown a declining trend. Government has taken no decision regarding import of edible oil during the current financial year. Arising from higher production, exports of oilseeds, extractions and oils have, on the other hand, increased rapidly. The oilseeds sector has become a substantial net foreign exchange earner.

Export of Milk Powder

759. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NDDB is to export 10,000 tonnes milk powder worth $ 10.5 million to an Australian firm as reported in the Economic Times of the 22nd December, 1990 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether NDDB also proposes to export 20,000 tonnes more milk powder and if so, the details thereof and the foreign exchange to be earned as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to import cheaper milk products against these export for the needy and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the claims of increased milk production in the country have been questioned by many independent experts and researchers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. As on date, no quantity of milk powder has been earmerked for immediate export.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No specific communication has been received from any Expert or Researcher questioning the estimates of milk production.

Export of alumina by National Aluminium Company Ltd.

760. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the achievement of the Public Sector National Aluminium Company Ltd. in the matter of export of alumina during the last three years, country-wise; and

(b) the foreign exchange earned as a result thereof?